

1208 Trinity
Jackson, Miss.

Feb. 15, 1965

Dear Hodeses,

Again, apologies for our slowness in replying. Just today the mountain of our correspondence finally literally collapsed into an avalanche, and I had to conduct a purge. I made an accordion file out of a lot of manila folders and got everything neatly alphabetized.

Wrote a nice letter to Aptheker, enclosing a copy of a very cheesecake photo of Viki holding Du Bois' Reconstruction book in our Freedom Library, with a list of the books we now have and an implied request for aid in filling lacunae. I hope that when I'm a famous author somebody writes me a letter from some God-forsaken spot to tell me how my books are appreciated. What you say in your letter of Dec 29th (see how nice it is to have a file?) about Aptheker's basement being stuffed with DuBoisiana makes my heart beat faster. Maybe there's a PhD thesis here!

I see from the back page of this week's Guardian that my letter to International Pubs is finding some use. I can add to the substance of that letter the fact that the library now has around 130 members and is still growing, particularly among the 15-21 age bracket set. We are finally getting a first trickle of members from Jackson State College nearby, a real victory if we can make it stick. At the same time, the volume of little kiddiewinkles who come in each afternoon after primary school is out is now so great that kiddie's books stay on the shelf an average of ten seconds, and we won't pretend that the rate of return is anywhere near 100 per cent. So, please, if someone is cleaning house and has a box of any kind of kiddie's books with pictures in them, ask them if they can send them along to us?

We received the copy of Freedomways which you send, and are impressed. Have not yet written to them to ask for free copies of next issue, but will definitely do so very high priority soon. Thanks very much for the tip-off.

One day a week ago we got a half-dozen boxes of various items from various people and when we had unpacked them all and the dust had settled, we found in the wrappings the enclosed little pictures and a page of chicken-scratches in a similar vein which we misplaced. We don't know what box it came out of but perhaps you-all can solve the mystery?

We are well and reasonably vigorous. The Feises fixed us up just great. No kind of trouble about that illicit vacation from the marshals, yet. Thank god.

Venceremos!

Viki + Martin

P.S. Did you see the pictures? + what do you think of Bobby's letter from here?

PPS. Bob's glamorous brown leather fur-lined gloves fit M. just right. The label warms our hearts — a bit of "soul-home" in Old Mississippi love, V.